



ST. MICHAEL-ALBERTVILLE SCHOOLS

EXCELLENCE IS OUR TRADITION

KNIGHT VIEW

DISTRICT NEWS

We Are STMA: Building for the Future

The new school year is off to a wonderful start! Our schools are alive with energy, learning, laughter, connections, and that unmistakable excitement that comes with a fresh start. There is nothing better than seeing our spaces filled with Knights once again!

We are grateful to our extraordinary staff, supportive families, and generous community for the partnership and shared commitment that help our students thrive. We are excited for all that lies ahead!

Building for the Future: Bond Projects

Thanks to our community's support of the November 2025 bond referendum, improvements are underway across STMA, including safety, technology, maintenance, and learning space upgrades.

Fitness Center upgrades are complete, along with many districtwide safety, security, and technology improvements. New accessible playground surfacing is also complete at Albertville Primary, Fieldstone Elementary, Big Woods Elementary, and St. Michael Elementary, with work underway at Community Education. Baseball and softball field improvements are underway, with completion expected in late fall 2026.

Work continues on several larger projects, including the new K-12 STEM Center, High School Black Box Theater, security doors, and media center renovations. These projects are scheduled for completion in fall 2027, with construction carefully coordinated to maximize taxpayer dollars and minimize disruptions to learning.

Visit the district's bond project webpage for photos, timelines, and updates.



New flooring and equipment for the Activity Center.

Building for the Future: School Funding

Building for the future also means ensuring our schools have the resources needed to put children first. We continue to advocate at the Legislature for adequate and sustainable school funding, while responsible stewardship and additional funding opportunities remain important.

This November, Minnesota voters will consider a constitutional amendment concerning the Permanent School Fund (PSF), which has supported public education since statehood. The proposal would modernize how earnings from the existing fund are distributed to schools while preserving its long-term strength.

Importantly, the amendment would provide additional funding for public schools without raising individual income or property taxes. It would use earnings from the existing PSF to provide additional revenue for Minnesota schools.

Based on current estimates, STMA could receive approximately \$240,000 in additional annual revenue if the amendment passes. These resources could help reduce class sizes and provide additional classroom support as we continue building a stronger future for our children.

A constitutional amendment must receive a majority of all votes cast in the election to pass. Leaving the question blank has the same effect as voting no.

Additional information can be found at www.mnpsfamendment.org or by scanning the QR code to watch a short video.

Thank you for your continued trust, generosity, and partnership. Together, we are building a stronger future for our children.



ANN-MARIE FOUCAULT
Superintendent

SCHOOL NEWS

ALBERTVILLE PRIMARY

A Great Start!

Welcome to preschool and kindergarten at Albertville Primary! This fall we welcomed over 650 students to our building! We want to thank our families for your patience, partnership, and support at the start of this school year. We also want to thank our kindergarten families for supporting our fall fundraiser. Here's to a great year!



First day of kindergarten recess.

BIG WOODS ELEMENTARY

Big Woods Elementary School has had a tremendous start to the school year! This year, we welcomed 602 students across 25 classrooms in grades 1 - 4. We are excited for the new playground surface, made possible through our community-supported bond. The joy we see on students' faces each morning is something we should all be proud of. Thank you Big Woods parents for all your support.



Big Woods students at recess.

FIELDSTONE ELEMENTARY

Fieldstone Elementary is off to a wonderful start! Students are building skills for their future while learning the importance of respect through our Character Strong trait of the month. As the new Fieldstone principal, I'm grateful for the opportunity to get to know our students and families, build relationships, and grow our sense of community. It's going to be a great year!



2nd graders learning the power of kindness!

ST. MICHAEL ELEMENTARY

St. Michael Elementary is off to a great start! This year, we welcomed 670 students across 27 classrooms in grades 1 - 4. We are excited for the new playground surface, made possible through our community-supported bond, along with the expanded turf area funded by our wonderful PTO. There is great energy throughout our school and we look forward to an amazing year together!



1st graders from Ms. Thompson's class on the first day of school.



MIDDLE SCHOOL EAST

Our 8th grade WEB Leaders started our school year helping 286 new 5th graders find their footing at Middle School East. From navigating hallways to answering first-day questions, these mentors made sure our newest students felt supported from the moment they walked in. It was inspiring to watch our older students step up and set such a positive tone for the school year ahead!



MIDDLE SCHOOL WEST

Middle School West is off to an amazing start to the 2026-27 school year! Our WEB Leaders welcomed 275 fifth graders into a new building, a new school year, and a new chapter. WEB – Where Everybody Belongs. What a powerful way to begin the year by building connections, creating belonging, and reminding our newest Knights that they are part of the West family!



HIGH SCHOOL

STMA High School proudly welcomed nearly 550 9th graders on the first day of school! More than 150 students from National Honor Society and Knights Leadership Council helped lead small groups during Youth Frontiers' Respect Retreat. Thank you to our community partners for helping make this meaningful day possible.



KNIGHTS ACADEMY

Knights Academy is off to an amazing start! Our entire staff is back and grateful to work with our alternative students again, building relationships and helping them reach their goals all year long!



NEWSLETTER QUESTIONS

If you have questions about anything you read in this newsletter, please call us at 763-497-3180!

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Congrats to the STMA Boys Volleyball team on their 3rd place finish in state! Great job by the players and coaches!

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

Emma Kvant was the State Champion in the 400 Meter Dash at the State Track & Field meet held at STMA in June and was named Ms. Track & Field for the State of Minnesota!



SENIOR CITIZENS

St. Michael and Albertville residents 62+ can get a free yearly activity pass at the Activities or District Office at Middle School West. Stop by during school hours with proof of residency.

LAKE CONFERENCE NETWORK

STMA Activities are streamed through the Lake Conference Network, including all varsity events and many lower level events. \$26.96 per month and you can cancel any time.



MUSIC

The first concerts of the year for the STMA Band and Choir programs will be October 12 in the High School PAC. Be sure to check out these amazing programs.

FALL ACTIVITIES

Fall Sports began on August 17 with just under 550 students registered to participate. Students in the Fall Musical, Debate and Adaptive Activities began in September.



Boys Volleyball finishes 3rd in State

MUSICAL AT SPOTLIGHT SHOWCASE

The STMA Musical from last year, *Pippin*, was selected to participate in the Spotlight Showcase hosted by Hennepin Theater Trust on June 9th. **This year's musical, *Frozen*, will be November 12-15th. Be sure to check out the show!**



BOYS LACROSSE

The STMA Boys Lacrosse team was Section 8 Champions and advanced to the state tournament for the 1st time in program history.



STAFF NEWS

A Closer Look at Staffing in our Schools

Minnesota faces a significant teacher and school staff shortage. Nearly 90% of districts statewide report being significantly impacted by teacher and substitute shortages, and about one-third of new educators leave the profession within five years. State licensing structures, high turnover, and broader economic factors all contribute, and a lasting fix will require a statewide approach.

In the meantime, STMA is focused on placing the best staff in front of our students. The district now serves more than 6,700 students and relies on over 750 staff members,

including classroom teachers, specialists, paraprofessionals, custodians, transportation staff, and community education instructors. We continue to adapt how we recruit, retain, and support the people who care for our children.

Our administration and Human Resources teams hire professionals in every department and building who put student growth, safety, and well-being at the center of their work.

Teachers we hire are licensed and fully vetted, then go through a comprehensive orientation designed to set them up for success at STMA Schools.

Non-licensed support staff, including maintenance, also play a critical role in school

safety and culture by creating a welcoming place for students to thrive.

All new employees complete a background check and share our daily focus on helping each student learn and grow.

World Class and Caring Staff

At the regularly scheduled school board meeting on September 8, the district celebrated the 2025-26 recipients of the Noble Knights Awards, which recognize STMA staff who have excelled at creating a welcoming and productive learning environment for students with disabilities.



Paige Armstrong-Hetterick

Music Teacher at the STMA High School



Ella Dwyer

Family and Consumer Science Teacher at Middle School West



Jesse Hackenmuller

Physical Education Teacher at STMA High School



Jenny Welle

Special Education Teacher at Albertville Primary



Courtney Zachman

Special Education Teacher at Big Woods Elementary (earned as paraprofessional at St. Michael Elementary)



**OPEN POSITIONS
APPLY ONLINE**

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

SUMMER 2026 WRAP UP

Our Community Education programs achieved outstanding success this summer, hosting 150 courses and exceeding 5,400 enrollments across the district. Our programs brought energy, learning, and fun to every corner of the district. Whether in sports, the arts, or academic enrichment, our community showed up in a big way. We are grateful to the coaches, vendors, volunteers, and staff whose dedication and heart made it all happen.

INSTRUCTORS WANTED!

Do you have a passion for technology, cooking, music, or other talents? Community Education seeks individuals like you to share your skills with children or adults. Any age or skill level is welcome and no prerequisite to teaching needed. We're seeking creative ideas and energetic people to teach a class after school or in the evening. We are now looking for instructors to teach during the summer of 2027. Contact **Amber Hall** at Amberha@mystma.org.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Try something new this fall with STMA Community Education! Our adult classes are an easy way to pick up a new skill and meet people along the way, whether you join our online cooking and Spanish classes from home or get hands-on with macramé planters, jewelry making, flower arranging, knitting, couples dancing and more. Register online and find the class that fits you.

OPEN POSITIONS!

Scan the QR code or visit the district's employment webpage
www.stma.k12.mn.us/employment-new



YOUTH ENRICHMENT HAPPENINGS

Fall enrichment programs are now open for registration! This fall, we're offering a variety of fun and engaging opportunities for your students, including crocheting, chess, RC car racing, drama club, edible 3D cell models, and winter wonderland popcorn just in time for the holidays. Whether your student loves getting creative, trying something new, or learning a new skill, there's something for everyone! Check out our fall offerings and register today!

PEACHJAR, THE ELECTRONIC BACKPACK

Our school district uses the electronic flyer communication tool called PEACHJAR. To view school-approved digital flyers, simply click the Peachjar button on your child's school website homepage. This green initiative will save our schools paper and reduce copy costs. If you have any questions please contact us at 763-497-6550 ext 7.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION IS HIRING!

Kids Play is hiring for our after-school childcare program and Just 4 Kids, our program for 4-year-olds. You'll help kids learn, build friendships and gain confidence in a safe, welcoming space where they can explore new interests and make lasting memories. To see all Kids Play openings, visit the employment tab on the district website.

NEW RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

STMA and Dash Sports are teaming up to provide new fun and exciting events both after school and on your days off! We have basketball, flag football, soccer, T-ball, and so much more! We will also be running a brand new Girls Youth Flag Football camp in the Dome this December. Led by the STMA High

School Girls Flag Football team, this is a great opportunity for your little athlete to learn about one of the fastest growing sports in America!

Ski Club registration deadline is November 12 at 3 pm.

ECFE: EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) serves families with children ages birth through five at the Community Education Center. Our programs foster early literacy, gross motor skills, and child development through age-appropriate lessons, guided parent discussions, and special events. Check out our available classes and events throughout the fall, with even more options coming in our Winter and Spring sessions. For questions or details, contact Coordinator **Shonna Hooper** at shonnah@mystma.org.

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL

Our Bright Beginnings Preschool provides engaging learning for three- and four-year-olds: three-year-olds explore play-based pre-academics and fine motor skills, while four-year-olds focus on kindergarten readiness and social development. Enrollment is processed year-round. While classes are currently fully enrolled, community members may contact Coordinator **Shonna Hooper** at shonnah@mystma.org for details.

FACILITY RENTALS

If you are interested in renting space, please contact **Jim Mauss** at jimm@mystma.org to book a district facility or to reserve city or district fields.



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